

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A client-server computer system comprising:

~~at least one~~ client application server ~~having~~ implementing an application, including configuration variables, that configures the application for operation;

an application properties server accessible by ~~at least one of said~~ the client application servers, said application properties server coupled to ~~at least one said~~ the client application server for providing configuration variable data for the configuration variables of the application in response to a request from ~~at least one said~~ the client application server that is implementing the application, wherein the request is provided from the ~~at least one~~ client application server to the application properties server via a command line interface that includes one or more switches to control how the requested data is returned, the one or more switches including at least a hashkey switch specifying that the configuration variables are to be returned in a hashtable;

an administration system coupled to said application properties server;
and

a storage medium coupled to said application properties server and said administration system for centrally storing said configuration variable data.

2. (Currently Amended) A client-server computer system comprising:

a plurality of client application servers operating multiple computer network protocols, each client application server having an application including configuration variables that configure the application for operation;

an application properties server network accessible by said plurality of client application servers via at least one application software protocol, wherein said application server network provides configuration variable information to one of the client application servers in response to ~~at least one~~ a configuration request from at ~~least~~ the one client application server; and,

a storage medium coupled to said application server network, wherein said storage medium stores updated system configuration variable information and is administered by a server coupled to said client-server system.

3. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 2, wherein said storage medium comprises a database.
4. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 2, wherein said configuration information is represented by a storage schema in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.
5. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 3, wherein said database contains a table-based system of configuration information, wherein said tables are searchable by said application server network in response to a request from at least one client.
6. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 4, wherein the storage schema represented by Lightweight Directory Access Protocol represents a table-based system configuration information.
7. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 2, wherein said database stores configuration information that is dynamically updateable by an external administrator.
8. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 2, wherein said storage schema is in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol and represents configuration information that is dynamically updateable by an external administrator.
9. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 7, wherein at least one client is coupled to said application server network via an RMI interface.
10. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 8, wherein at least one client is coupled to said application server network via an RMI interface.

11. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 3, wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Key Value Pairs.
12. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 4, wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Hashtable Hierarchy.
13. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 7, wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Key Value Pairs.
14. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 8, wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said storage medium via Hashtable Hierarchy.
15. (Currently Amended) An application properties server network comprising:
a plurality of client application servers operating applications using a plurality of computer protocols and requiring configuration variable data to configure the applications for operation;
means for performing configuration services in response to configuration requests from said plurality of client application servers, said means for performing configuration services being coupled to said plurality of client application servers, said configuration services including providing configuration variable data to one of the client application servers in response to receiving a request for configuration variable data from the one client application server;
means for storing and maintaining a system of configuration variable data coupled to said means for performing configuration services; and
means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services.

16. (Original) An application server according to claim 15, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a CORBA server application.

17. (Original) An application server according to claim 16, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a properties server application for handling RMI requests for configuration services.

18. (Original) An application server according to claim 17, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a common database access library.

19. (Original) An application server according to claim 18, wherein said means for interfacing said plurality of client application servers to said means for performing configuration services includes a database server coupled to said properties server application for handling RMI requests and said CORBA server application for interacting with said means for storing and maintaining configuration information.

20. (Original) An application server according to claim 15, further comprising a Java RMI Application Programming Interface.

21. (Original) An application server according to claim 20, further comprising a CORBA gateway.

22. (Original) An application server according to claim 21, wherein said means for performing configuration *service* is implemented by a base Java RMI service in a service broker framework.

23. (Original) An application server according to claim 22, wherein said service broker framework is implemented using at least one XML service broker configuration file.

24. (Original) An application server according to claim 23, wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said means for storing via Key Value Pairs.

25. (Original) An application server according to claim 23, wherein said configuration information is stored and retrieved from said means for storing via Hashtable Hierarchy.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an application configuration service, the system comprising:

an application properties server;

at least one Java application program of a first client application computer, including application variables that configure the application for operation, networked with said application properties server, the first client application computer generating a request for configuration variable data to configure the application being implemented by the first client application computer;

at least one-CORBA application program of a second client application computer, including application variables that configure the application for operation, networked with said application properties server, the second client application computer generating a request for configuration variable data to configure the application being implemented by the second client application computer;

at least one Internet application program of a third client application computer, including application variables that configure the application for operation, networked with said application properties server, the third client application computer generating a request for configuration variable data to configure the application being implemented by the third client application computer;

one or more application programming interfaces coupled to the application properties server for receiving configuration service requests via a plurality of computer network protocols from each of the first, second, and third client application computers;

at least one dynamically-maintainable configuration variable data schema coupled to said application properties server such that the application properties server accesses the configuration variable data in response to the configuration service requests.

27. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 26, wherein said data schema comprises configuration information and is at least partially in the form of a database.

28. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 26, wherein said data schema comprises configuration information in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

29. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 27, wherein said application server and said data schema are remotely located to said plurality of client application servers and said configuration information is maintainable by a remote administrator.

30. (Original) A client-server computer system according to claim 28, wherein said application server and said data schema are remotely located to said plurality of client application servers and said configuration information is maintainable by a remote administrator.

31. (Original) The client-server computer system of claim 29, wherein data passes between said application servers and said application server in the form of a string.

32. (Original) The client-server computer system of claim 30, wherein data passes between said application servers and said application server in the form of a string.

33. (Original) The client-server computer system of claim 29, wherein data passes between said application servers and said application server in the form of a hashtables.

34. (Original) The client-server computer system of claim 30, wherein data passes between said application servers and said application server in the form of a hashtables.

35. (Currently Amended) A server system for providing configuration services in response to requests from applications coupled to the server, the system comprising:

a CORBA application server running an application program including application variables that configure the application for operation, wherein the CORBA application server generates a request for application variable data;

an RMI application server running application program including application variables that configure the application for operation, wherein the RMI application server generates a request for application variable data;

an internet application server running application program including application variables that configure the application for operation, wherein the internet application server generates a request for application variable data,

wherein the application servers are all in communication with a centralized application properties server, the application servers providing ~~configuration~~ the requests to the application properties server via a network;

one or more application programming interfaces capable of handling a plurality of software protocols in communication with the application properties server and the application servers; and

a configuration variable data schema in communication with said network, for storing configuration variable data and accessible by said properties server to thereby obtain the configuration variable data and return it to the application server that has requested it.

36. (Currently Amended) A server system according to claim 35, wherein said data schema comprises a relational database.

37. (Original) A server system according to claim 35, wherein said configuration variables comply with Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

38. (Original) A server system according to claim 35, wherein said one or more interfaces includes a CORBA server application.

39. (Original) A server system according to claim 38, wherein said one or more interfaces includes a server application for handling RMI requests.

40. (Original) A server system according to claim 39, wherein said one or more interfaces includes a common database access library.

41. (Original) A server system according to claim 40, wherein said one or more interfaces includes a database server coupled to said properties server.

42. (Original) A server system according to claim 35, further comprising a Java RMI Application Programming Interface.

43. (Original) A server system according to claim 42, further comprising a CORBA gateway.

44. (Original) An server system according to claim 43, wherein said properties server is implemented by a base Java RMI service in a service broker framework.

45. (Original) A server system according to claim 44, wherein said service broker framework is implemented using at least one XML service broker configuration file.

46. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an application configuration service, the system comprising:

means for receiving a configuration service request from a client running an application requiring configuration variable data to configure the application for operation, the client requesting configuration variable information from said system;

means for sending a configuration service request instruction to an application server corresponding to the configuration variable information;

means for sending a configuration service request from the application server to a relational database, the configuration service response being based at least in part on the configuration service request;

means for performing configuration services in response to the configuration service request;

means for updating the relational database based on current configuration data requirements of the system;

means for sending a configuration result from the application server to the client based at least in part on the configuration service request, the configuration result being sent to the client including configuration variable data that has been requested by the client; and

means for providing a response to the system from the client acknowledging the configuration result.

47. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions adapted to be executed by a processor for providing an application configuration service, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

receive a configuration service request from a client device running an application requiring configuration variable data to configure the application for operation;

generate a service session instruction based at least in part on the service request;

send the service session instruction to one or more open application programming interfaces, the service session instruction corresponding to one or more configuration variable data requests from the client device;

perform one or more configuration functions based on stored configuration variable data in a relational database; and

send a configuration service response to the client device based on the configuration service request, wherein the configuration service response to the client includes configuration variable data requested by the client.

48. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 47, wherein said relational database comprises a relational database and further comprises an instruction to load at least a portion of said database into a memory upon startup of said application service.

49. (Original) A medium according to claim 47, wherein said variables are stored in the format of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol and further comprise an instruction to load variables into a memory upon startup of said application service.

50-62. (Cancelled)